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Dated: 12-18-03

Signature: [Signature] (Michael Boyd)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In the application of:

Robert P. HOF et al.

Serial No.: 09/887,933

Filing Date: June 22, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR RACEMISING AN
ENANTIOMER-ENRICHED SCHIFF
BASE OF AN AMINO ACID AMIDE

Examiner: S. Kumar

Group Art Unit: 1621

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Appellants file this Reply Brief to Examiner's Answer pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.193 in connection with the above-identified application. The Examiner's Answer was mailed on October 20, 2003, according to 37 CFR § 1.193, a Reply Brief must be filed within two months from the mailing of the Examiner's Answer, December 20, 2003. As such, this Reply Brief is timely filed. Herewith, Appellants submit an original and two copies of this reply Brief.

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O.K. - no error